

THE VERDENDORPS. A Novel. By Basil Verdendorp. Chicago: Charles M. Hertig.

An exciting book—some marrying, not much love, and any amount of intrigue. Lawyers and detectives, and people who like mysteries, will possibly be interested in its histories. No one will be made any better by the book. It is not one of the kind that makes wiser the head or makes better the heart. The preface is very short, and reads as follows: "Verdendorps and Verdendorpiana are special creations of their author. This by the author of the Verdendorps, of the Verdendorps affirmed, are affirmed of the Verdendorps alone. The same is true of Verdendorpiana. It will be as fallacious to consider either in the light of supposed analogues, as it is, to many minds, fallacious to consider the general question of special creations in the light of supposed analogues." It will take a Verdendorp of the most modern style to understand that. We should regret ever being a bar to genius, and would not unnecessarily wound honest effort, but we do not believe Verdendorp has a genius for novel writing.

## The Verdendorps



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